

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 20, 1962

SUBJECT: NATO - WARSAW PACT DÉTENTE

QUESTION: What are your views on a non-aggression pact between NATO and the Warsaw Pact?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

- * IZVESTIYA of November 14 stated that "the Western powers are considering proposing to the Soviet Union the concluding of such a non-aggression pact between the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries."
- * Following are the pertinent excerpts from the President's letter of October 27 and Chairman Khrushchev's reply of October 28 which have been made public (Khrushchev's letter of October 26 has not been published):
 1. From the President's letter: "I would like to say again that the United States is very much interested in reducing tensions and halting the arms race; and if your letter (of October 26) signifies that you are prepared to discuss a détente affecting NATO and the Warsaw Pact, we are quite prepared to consider with our allies any useful proposals. But the first ingredient, let me emphasize, is the cessation of work on missile sites in Cuba and measures to render such weapons inoperable under effective international guarantees."
 2. From Khrushchev's reply: "In conclusion I wish to speak of the regulation of relations between NATO and the states of the Warsaw Treaty which you mention. We spoke of this not long ago and are ready to continue an exchange of opinions with you on this question and to find a reasonable solution. I also wish to continue an exchange of opinions on the prohibition of atomic and thermonuclear weapons and on general disarmament and other questions connected with the lessening of international tension."

SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY

- * As I stated in my letter of October 27 to Chairman Khrushchev we are prepared to consider with our allies any useful proposals which may serve to create a détente between NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries, once agreement is reached on the removal of Soviet offensive weapons in Cuba under effective international guarantees.
- * Proposals of the kind mentioned in the exchange of letters would be in the context of other problems at issue between the United States and its allies on the one hand and the Soviet Union on the other.